

The Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy 2024 - 2029

Easy
Read



**Kent
County
Council**
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Easy read version

This is a short, Easy Read version of The Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2024 – 2029.



The strategy is our future plan for stopping domestic abuse and helping people who have been affected by domestic abuse.



You can read the full plan on our website:
www.kent.gov.uk/domesticabusestrategy



If you need a different format or more information you can email us at alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk

or telephone 03000 421553.



Who we are

We are Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Partnership.

We are a partnership, made up of different organisations, including:

- Kent County Council
- Medway Council
- Kent Fire and Rescue Service
- Kent Police
- National Probation Service
- NHS
- Department of Work and Pensions
- The Police and Crime Commissioner
- all Kent district, borough, and city councils

Being a partnership means that we work closely together.



We provide support and services for people and families affected by domestic abuse.



We aim to stop domestic abuse from happening, and make sure that anyone affected by it can get help quickly.



What is domestic abuse?

Domestic abuse happens between two adults who know each other personally. This could be someone:

- you are in a relationship with;
- in your family;
- the family of your partner.



Domestic abuse can happen to anyone.
Here are some of the ways domestic abuse can happen:



Physical or sexual abuse is when someone hurts your body. It could also be when someone makes you do sexual things that you do not want to do.



Violent and threatening behaviour is when someone hurts you or says they will hurt you.



Controlling behaviour is when someone makes you do what you are told by hurting you, making you afraid or making you feel bad about yourself.



Financial abuse is when someone takes or uses your money without your permission or controls your pay.



Emotional abuse is when someone says or does bad things to make you feel upset or worried.



How to get help

If someone is doing or saying something to hurt you, or a person you know, it is important to tell someone.

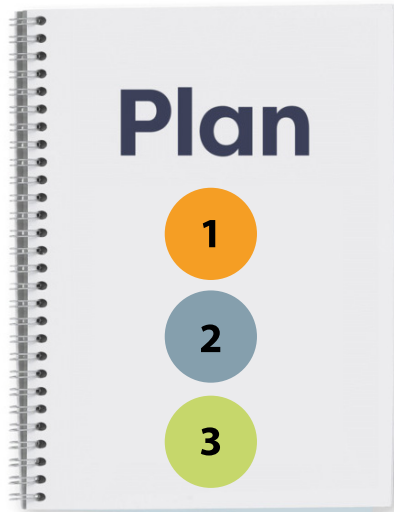


You can telephone these organisations for help:

- **Victim Support**
0808 168 9276
or visit their website
www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk
 - **National Domestic Violence Helpline**
0808 2000 247
 - **Mens' Advice Line**
0808 801 0327
-



Call **999** to speak to the police if you are in immediate danger. If it is not an emergency call 101 or go to a police station to speak to a police officer.



Our plan

We want to stop domestic abuse from happening and make sure that anyone affected by it can get help.

To do this, our plan has 3 parts. We have called these

1. Early intervention and prevention

2. Immediate need

3. Recovery

We have used lots of information from people who have experienced domestic abuse in Kent and Medway to help us write this plan.



Early intervention and prevention

Early intervention means we want to find out quickly if domestic abuse is happening to a person. We can then stop it from getting worse.

Prevention means to stop domestic abuse from happening.

To do this, we want to make sure everyone knows:

- what domestic abuse is;
- how to get help.



We will give training to the people who work in our partnership. This will help them to spot when domestic abuse is happening and to give the best possible support.



We will give help to people who may be more likely to abuse others. We will support them to change their behaviour for the better.



We will explain to people in the community how they can help. We will tell them how to spot when a person is at risk of domestic abuse and who they need to tell.



We want to let people know how they can find out if a person they are having a relationship with has a history of domestic abuse. This is called Clare's Law.

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Immediate need

Immediate need means all the different ways a person can get help if domestic abuse is happening to them. It is also the help they can get immediately after it has happened to them.



We want people to have the best support available.

This includes having a safe place to stay if it is not safe to stay in their own home.



We want children who have seen domestic abuse happen to have the right support. This may include a safe place to stay and help with staying in school.



To give people the right support, we want to make sure the people who work in our partnership can:

- talk to each other about what help they are providing;
- share information easily;
- make a clear plan together for how to help somebody;
- understand the different needs people have;
- make sure everybody who needs help can get it;
- work together to find ways to make our services better;
- learn how to do things differently if something has gone wrong.

3

Recovery

Domestic abuse can affect how a person thinks and feels for a long time after the abuse has ended. The partnership will work together to support a person to get better. This is called recovery.



Different people need different types of support to recover. Recovery can be physical, emotional and financial.



We want everyone to get help that is right for them.



To do this we will:

- help mental health organisations understand more about domestic abuse;
- support the whole family of the person who has experienced domestic abuse;
- help people to join support networks and group meetings that may help their recovery;
- support parents and children to have a healthy and safe relationship;
- raise awareness of how financial abuse can affect a person's home, work and independence even after the abuse has ended;
- make it easy for people to tell us what they think of our services;
- learn from what people tell us.



The new Domestic Abuse Act made sure people experiencing domestic abuse can ask for a safe place to live.



It gives the Local Authority duties which support people who are in safe accommodation, this means people:

- in a refuge – a safe place where people can stay and not be afraid anymore, this can be a shared space where you live with other people, or an individual space. But there will always be support to help you;
- in a Sanctuary – when you have security in your home such as window locks or security cameras;
- leaving refuge to find a longer term place to live.



In Kent and Medway we want to improve our services.

- We will make sure that children and young people affected by abuse get the help and support they need;
- We will work to bring together services which help people if they have mental health problems, drug and alcohol problems and have also experienced domestic abuse. We want to make sure they have access to help;
- We will help people to move out of refuge with support when they are ready;
- We will make sure that everyone has access to safe accommodation;
- We will trial refuge support for men (at the moment it is only available for women).



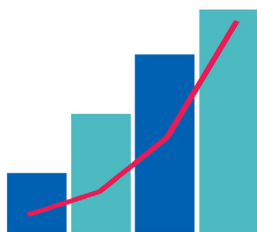
How we will know if we are getting it right

The partnership will make a list called a delivery plan.

The delivery plan will say what needs to happen and when.



The organisations in our partnership will talk often about how well the plan is going. We will listen to everyone's views.



We will measure how well we are doing.



We will ask people what they think about our services.



We will learn from what is working well. We will make changes quickly if things are not working well.



More information

If you want to know more about us you can visit our website:

www.kent.gov.uk/domesticabusestrategy



or email

PSRPolicy@kent.gov.uk

In partnership with and supported by

